

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 7, 13, 24, 28, 29 to read, as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** 1. (currently amended) A nucleotide sequence comprising, a regulatory region selected from the group consisting of *cbh1*, *cbh2*, *eg1*, *eg2*, *eg3*, *eg5*, *xln1*, and *xln2*, in operative association with a xylanase secretion sequence and a gene of interest encoding a protein selected from the group consisting of a mannanase, a laccase, an endoglucanase, and a cellobiohydrolase, ~~wherein the gene of interest is not associated with the production of a xylanase protein that is native to said xylanase secretion signal.~~
2. **(Cancelled).**
3. **(Cancelled).**
4. **(Original)** The nucleotide sequence of claim 1 further comprising a terminator sequence.
5. **(Previously Presented)** The nucleotide sequence of claim 1 further comprising a selectable marker.
6. **(Original)** The nucleotide sequence of claim 1 further comprising an intervening sequence.
7. **(Currently Amended)** A vector comprising the ~~isolated~~ nucleotide sequence of claim 1.
8. **(Original)** A transformed filamentous fungi comprising the vector of claim 7.
9. **(Original)** A transformed filamentous fungi comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 1.

10. **(Previously Presented)** The transformed filamentous fungi of claim 9, wherein the filamentous fungi is selected from the group consisting of *Trichoderma*, *Humicola*, *Fusarium*, *Aspergillus*, *Mycogone*, *Verticillium*, *Colletotrichum*, *Neurospora*, *Botrytis*, *Pleurotus*, *Penicillium*, *Cephalosporium*, *Myrothecium*, *Papulospora*, *Achlya*, *Podospora*, *Endothia*, *Mucor*, *Cochilobolus*, *Tolypocladium*, *Pyricularia*, *Penicillium*, *Myceliophthora*, *Irpex*, *Stachybotrys*, *Scorpariopsis*, *Chaetomium*, *Gliocladium*, *Cephalosporin* and *Acremonium*.

11. **(Original)** The transformed filamentous fungi of claim 10, wherein the filamentous fungi is *Trichoderma*.

12. **(Original)** The transformed filamentous fungi of claim 10, wherein the filamentous fungi is *Humicola*.

13. **(Currently Amended)** A method of producing a protein of interest within a filamentous fungi comprising the steps of:

- i) transforming the filamentous fungi with a nucleotide sequence comprising, a regulatory region selected from the group consisting of *cbh1*, *cbh2*, *eg1*, *eg2*, *eg3*, *eg5*, *xln1*, and *xln2*, in operative association with a xylanase secretion sequence and a gene of interest selected from the group consisting of mannanases, laccases, endoglucanases, and cellobiohydrolases, ~~wherein at least one of the regulatory region, or gene of interest is not normally associated with the production of xylanase protein;~~
- ii) growing the filamentous fungi, and
- iii) causing the fungi to produce the protein of interest.

14. **(Original)** A method of producing a protein of interest within a filamentous fungi comprising the steps of:

- i) transforming the filamentous fungi with the nucleic acid sequence of claim 6;

- ii) growing the filamentous fungi; and
- iii) causing the fungi to produce the protein of interest.

15. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein, in the step of transforming, the xylanase secretion sequence is heterologous with respect to the filamentous fungi.

16. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein, in the step of transforming, the xylanase secretion sequence is homologous with respect to the filamentous fungi.

17. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein, in the step of transforming, the xylanase secretion sequence is heterologous with respect to the filamentous fungi.

18. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein, in the step of transforming, the xylanase secretion sequence is homologous with respect to the filamentous fungi.

19. **(Original)** The method of claim 13, wherein the step of causing the fungi to produce, further comprises purifying the protein of interest.

20. **(Original)** The method of claim 14, wherein the step of causing the fungi to produce, further comprises purifying the protein of interest.

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 14 wherein the step of causing the fungi to produce the protein of interest, further comprises removing the amino acid sequence encoded by the intervening sequence from the protein of interest.

22. **(Original)** A protein produced by the method of claim 14.

23. **(Original)** A protein produced by the method of claim 20.

24. **(Currently Amended)** The nucleotide sequence of claim 3 1, wherein the protein is selected from the group consisting of β -glucosidase, ~~cellulase, hemicellulase, a lignin-degrading enzyme, pectinase, protease and peroxidase~~ endoglucanase II, mannanase, and laccase I.

25. **(Original)** A vector comprising the isolated nucleotide sequence of claim 24.

26. **(Original)** A transformed filamentous fungi comprising the vector of claim 25.

27. **(Original)** A transformed filamentous fungi comprising the nucleotide sequence of claim 24.

28. **(Currently Amended)** A method of producing a protein of interest ~~selected from a group consisting of β -glucosidase, cellulase, hemicellulase, a lignin-degrading enzyme, pectinase, protease and peroxidase~~ within a filamentous fungi comprising the steps of:

- i) transforming the filamentous fungi with the vector of claim 25;
- ii) growing the filamentous fungi; and
- iii) causing the fungi to produce the protein.

29. **(Currently Amended)** A method of producing a protein of interest ~~selected from a group consisting of β -glucosidase, cellulase, hemicellulase, a lignin degrading enzyme, pectinase, protease and peroxidase~~ within a filamentous fungi comprising the steps of:

- i) transforming the filamentous fungi with the vector of claim 24;
- ii) growing the filamentous fungi; and
- iii) causing the fungi to produce the protein.

30. **(Cancelled).**

31. **(Cancelled).**

32. **(Original)** The nucleotide sequence of claim 1, wherein said xylanase secretion signal is a family 11 xylanase secretion signal.

33. **(Original)** The nucleotide sequence of claim 1, wherein said xylanase secretion signal is a xylanase II secretion signal.